

Washington State Penitentiary

Local Family Council Meeting

August 19, 2010

Date/Time: Saturday, August 7, 2010, 8:00 to 9:30 a.m.

PARTICIPANTS: Associate Superintendent, Mark Kucza, Captain Robert Piver, CPM Carla Schettler, CPPC Linda Finn, Sgt. Robert Beal, Sgt. Stan Hutchins, Bill Copland, Family Services Specialist, Patti, Sadarah, Nancy, and via conference call: Nicole, State Wide Family Council member and Brianna.

RECORDER: Linda Finn, CPPC

Welcome – Meeting was called to order by Linda Finn and everyone present and on the telephone introduced themselves. Nicole then chaired the meeting via the conference call.

OLD BUSINESS

INFO–PORT MAILING LIST

Key Points/Discussion: Mark Kucza stated that the vendor who created Info-Port has been requested to make changes so that we can do mass mailings to everyone who is an approved visitor at WSP. This will enable us to reach out to many people who have either never visited or haven't for some time. We can send meeting minutes and other information so they are aware of LFC meetings and agenda items, special event opportunities and other information of general interest.

Next Steps: Wait for further information from the HQ Visit Specialist.

Person Responsible: HQ Visit Specialist, Lt. Clark, Sgt.'s Beal & Hutchins

UPDATE ON VAN POOL WITH MATTHEW HOUSE:

Key Points/Discussion: Matthew House is a non-profit organization located in Monroe. The *Prisoners for Christ* has a van service to Walla Walla on the 5th Saturday of the month. It is being discussed to possibly have a van transport on perhaps a Tuesday, during the month.

Next Steps: Ask for more information.

Person Responsible: State Wide Council members, Christy and Nicole.

UPDATE ON FAMILY PORTRAITS:

Key Points/Discussion: John Anthony was unable to attend the meeting, but he sent samples of the flyers that will be posted throughout the institution. A suggestion was made by Mark Kucza to the wording on the flyer to incorporate **family/friends** as part of the determining who will be able to participate. Also, it was suggested to post samples of photos that were taken by the photographer, so the inmates will be able to see the work that has been done in the past.

Next Steps: Make the suggested change/suggestion prior to posting.

Person Responsible: John Anthony, photographer.

NEW BUSINESS

VENDING MACHINES

Key Points/Discussion: Sgt. Beal stated that more toddler friendly, diabetic friendly and vegetarian friendly foods are being looked at to be added to the vending machines in the visiting rooms. Sgt. Beal also brought copies, of the variety of food choices that are available through the vendor. These copies were passed out to LFC members and they were asked to review and to give suggestions to visiting room staff. Also it was stated that copies will be passed out at OCL meetings and inmates will talk amongst themselves for possible selections. These suggestions will have to be given to staff members in a relatively short time, so that the items could be made available in the machines as soon as possible.

Next Steps: Once suggestions/choices are made, order items for machines.

Person Responsible: WSP visiting room personnel.

FUTURE STATE FURLOUGH DAY COVERAGE

Key Points/Discussion: Mark Kucza stated that an alternate schedule is being discussed for those staff who work in the Mailroom and the Property Room. The institution/state is attempting to alleviate the problems these two areas encounter during these mandated furlough days.

Next Steps: Keep updated on progress.

Person Responsible: DOC/WSP

REVIEW DRAFT OF "VISITING ROOM POLICY"

Key Points/Discussion: Copies of the **REVIEW COPY** was distributed to all present, an attachment of the **REVIEW COPY** was e mailed to LFC members following the meeting. First change discussed was on page 4 – More allowances for “special visits”. This would allow a. *Individuals who utilize Dept. facilitated, special transportation services (Matthew House or Prisoners of Christ)*, b. *Appointed members of Local and/or Statewide Family Council groups who have missed visits due to participation in council meetings*, and c. *Children under 2 months of age who have not yet received a certified copy of their birth certificate*. Sgt. Hutchins stated that these new changes could create problems, such as: separtee issues, overcrowding, turning more visitors away once occupancy is reached, to name a few. Some suggestions made were:

- Ask those visitors who did not travel long distances to perhaps leave early so others could visit
- At count time give individuals an opportunity to leave early to give other visitors a chance to visit
- Have more regulated visiting time, i.e. 3 hours first group, next group 3 hours, etc.

Another change that was discussed was allowance of more than just “hand holding” as only form of contact.

Next Steps: Comments have been submitted by WSP administration and the State Wide Family Council members to DOC Executive staff. The policy is expected to be finalized at any time.

Person Responsible: LFC members, State Wide members and staff.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Key Points/Discussion: Carla Schettler informed those present that inmates are given a calling card, for their use, upon release along with their “gate money”. The money on the card is paid for by the vendor, it is not taken from the money that is still on the inmates account at time of release.

- Mark Kucza stated that he would address the issue of the LFC minutes not being posted in the living units and in the visiting rooms.
- Sgt. Hutchins stated that more 2 person tables were on order for the WC visiting room.
- EFV's (Extended Family Visits) 4 units are being refurbished. Recommendations on who is eligible for this program is, determined by the State Legislature. This is not an institutionally driven policy.
- “Family & Offender Sentencing Alternative” informational brochure was passed out by Bill Copland. There are quite a few stipulations to this program and it is very limited to who would be eligible. This program is basically geared toward “caregivers”.

Next Steps:

Person Responsible: N/A

FREE “BIRTHDAY” CALL

Key Points/Discussion: A flyer with information about a program that VAC (Value-Added Communications) is offering, about a “Free Birthday Call” was passed out. An attachment about this program was e mailed to LFC members following the meeting. *It gives an inmate who has been incarcerated on or before 8/25/10 an opportunity to make an in-state phone call at their convenience.* They have to follow the simple steps listed.

Next Steps:

Person Responsible: VAC

FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS ORDERS

Key Points /Discussion: Linda Finn passed around samples of floral arrangements and balloons that inmates could order from *Jacky's Flowers*, a local business. The prices seemed quite high to those present. So other avenues will be looked into, such as *Just Roses* to see about more reasonable prices. The selections, between 10 -12, will be made available for inmates to review and choose from to send to family/friends. Details are being worked out and more information will be presented at the next LFC meeting.

Next Steps: Continue working on details.

Person Responsible: Linda Finn

RECRUITMENT OF FAMILY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Key Points/Discussion: Bill Copland would like to see more participation in these meetings from family members. It was suggested to place informational flyers in visiting rooms and living units, again. Perhaps members could talk

with other visiting family members and inform them that their inputs are welcomed and valued.

Next Steps: Post flyers.

Person Responsible: WSP Staff

OTHER TOPICS:

- Carla Schettler talked about a *Relay for Life* event being held at WSP. The money raised will go to the **American Cancer Society**. Money will be raised by purchasing an ice cream selection or by purchasing a bag (provided by the Am. Cancer Society) that an inmate could decorate in honor of someone in their life that was affected by cancer. The event is being planned for the end of September or beginning of October.
- Nicole mentioned a “Family Summit” that was going to be held on August 14th at the Evergreen State College Tacoma, in Tacoma. The summit is being organized through **The Black Prisoner’s Caucus & Concerned Lifers Organization**. She said that she’ll send an e mail with the attachment for this gathering after the meeting.
- Patti asked about the *Partnership Strengthening* event that was first discussed back at the April 3rd LFC meeting. It was decided that Patti, Nancy, Sadarah, Brianna & Linda Finn will work, on organizing this event, probably during a conference call. Carla Schettler suggested that perhaps a conference call including inmates from the OCL’s could be involved in organizing this event too.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Saturday, October 2, 2010